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CONGRESSMEN RETURN FROM UK, COMMENT ON TALKS

PY251946 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Senator Adolfo Gass and Deputies Federico Storani and Jose Bordon today returned from Great Britain. At Ezeiza Airport they were interviewed by Radio Nacional reporter Osvaldo Tejeria:

[Begin relay] [Tejeria] Three of the four congressmen who held talks with British parliamentarians have just returned from London. Federico Storani made the following statement:

[Begin Storani recording] The result was very favorable. We met all representative opposition politicians and also parliamentarians belonging to the government party who undoubtedly have moved toward our position by making more flexible the position now held by the UK Government and by favorably viewing the UN resolutions on negotiating all aspects of the future of the islands. This obviously includes the sovereignty question.

This of course did not please Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government, and for this reason I believe that a maneuver was contrived with the intention of making its position appear before the world as flexible and making us appear intransigent. It was alleged that there was an invitation, but it was never made, and when it was learned that there was the possibility of a meeting, it was also leaked that the agenda of the meeting would explicitly exclude the sovereignty problem, which from our point of view made the meeting completely pointless. [end recording]

[Tejeria] Senator Adolfo Gass has also returned from London, and we asked him what he believed was the most important result of the meetings he held there.

[Begin Gass recording] We had the opportunity to talk with the most prominent political leaders of the United Kingdom, not with those of the opposition with whom we have met on other occasions, but with members of the government party. Our visit can be evaluated only in one way to see if it was important or if it was meaningful or not. The proof of its importance can be seen in the fact that the prime minister found herself forced through our visit to make a maneuver to link us with a man at the Foreign Office. This maneuver, of course, was not successful.

In the second place, she also found herself compelled, for reasons of domestic policy, to make a statement in the House of Commons that she would not agree to hold any talks, on the transfer of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. Not satisfied with this, and seeing how we were received by the media, the institutions, Parliament, and the House of Lords, she sent her chief adviser Baroness Young, a Foreign Office under secretary, to visit the Malvinas Islands to somehow discredit our visit. I assure you newsmen that she did not succeed in her objective. [end recording]

[Tejeria] This was what Senator Adolfo Gass said this morning at Ezeiza on his return from Great Britain. [end relay]

SHLAUDEMANN, ALFONSIN DISCUSS CENTRAL AMERICA

PY241822 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Relay from Government House by Susana Ferrao]

[Text] Argentine President Raul Alfonsin today held a meeting at the Olivos presidential residence with the U.S. Roving Ambassador for Central American Affairs Harry Shlaudemann. At the end of the meeting, presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez read the following communique.

Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today met with the U.S. President's envoy, Ambassador Harry Shlaudemann. It was a constructive meeting during which they discussed the situation in Central America. During the meeting, Ambassador Shlaudemann confirmed that the United States is not considering military intervention in the region. They also discussed possible actions to put in practice the proposals that the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group made in Caraballeda, with whose objectives the U.S. Government has stated it agrees. President Alfonsin said that Argentina's position is reflected in its actions in the Contadora Support Group. He asserted that the Caraballeda proposal presupposes the simultaneous enforcement of all the points included therein.

FURTHER ON ALFONSIN-SANGUINETTI STATEMENTS

PY250236 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Feb 86 p 1

[Excerpts] (NA-DYN) -- Argentine and Uruguayan Presidents Raul Alfonsin and Julio Sanguinetti yesterday expressed their "most adamant rejection of the protectionist policies and unfair trade practices" of the industrialized nations, especially the European Economic Community (EEC) and the United States," and warned of the "dramatic consequences these policies imply for stable international relations." In a joint statement, the two presidents stressed that the policy of subsidizing agricultural exports applied by countries of the North "violate basic norms of free and just market access and the very economic principles development nations preach."

In a second statement, they urged all Latin American countries to sign a regional assistance treaty for food emergencies aimed at "alleviating the food shortage" of any member country, whether brought on by natural or economic-financial disasters.

They also called on "international agencies, especially regional cooperation and integration organizations to support the initiative," underlining "it is unacceptable at this point in the history of mankind that any circumstance should lead a country to suffer the consequences of hunger."

Alfonsin and Sanguinetti also signed accords to implement "a common border system, joint port policies, amplification of telecommunications networks between the two countries and also gas pipelines, and stepping up studies for building the Buenos Aires-Colonia bridge."

Those accords point to "making border traffic for people, goods and vehicles more fluent," utilize "Uruguayan ports as complementary for Argentine exports," and "deepen canals in the area of Martin Garcia Island," among other efforts to promote greater bilateral integration.

They also agreed to "intensify political involvement" in putting into practice the bilateral accords and giving greater dynamism to the working commissions of the Argentine-Uruguayan CAUCE economic cooperation treaty.

FOREIGN MINISTER BACKS RAPPROCHEMENT WITH CHILE

PY251309 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal today announced during a press conference that Bolivia will initiate a diplomatic rapprochement toward Chile. He said that President Victor Paz Estenssoro has appointed Jorge Siles Salinas as the new Bolivian consul to Chile. As is known, Mr Siles Salinas, the brother of former President Adolfo Siles Salinas, is currently director of the newspaper ULTIMA HORA.

Minister Bedregal made the following comments:

[Begin Bedregal recording] I wish to tell you that, given our traditional relations and our geopolitical realities, it is important to have representations. We believe that bilateral economic relations are fundamental within the framework of our foreign policy. I want to publicly announce that the president has ordered that a new consul general be named to Chile. He will be Mr Jorge Siles Salinas. There are two important aspects of Siles Salinas' mission to Chile. We have two specific problems regarding our exchange problem with Chile. We need to establish a more vigorous presence in our consulate (?and in the) customs agencies as a consequence of the troubles stemming from the 1904 Treaty. [end recording]

Afterward the minister added that through this decision the government is approaching Chile and that relations with this country are now totally normal. He also said that Bolivia needs to guarantee free road and train traffic with Chile. In conclusion, the minister said that our relations with Chile are totally independent of the current Chilean regime. He said that Bolivia maintains relations with all countries and, therefore, does not take into account whether or not it is dealing with a constitutional government. Under these perspectives, our relations with Chile are changing and entering a new phase. The possibility of resuming talks on the sea outlet problem in the near future has not been ruled out.

MNR-ADN LEADERS CONFER WITH PAZ ESTENSSORO

PY251530 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] President Paz Estenssoro has held a meeting at Government Palace with members of the alliance made up of his party, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR], and the Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN]. During the meeting, several subjects were discussed, including those related to congressional activities and to the development of the Pact for Democracy existing between the two parties. On leaving Government Palace at the end of the meeting, MNR representative Nuflo Chavez Ortiz made the following statement:

[Begin recording] During the meeting we of course expressed the idea of President Victor Paz Estenssoro's party, the MNR, that there is absolute unity between the government and the government party, the MNR. We also expressed some points of view regarding the management of the ministries run by independent ministers [words indistinct] of the MNR, and that the positions of party members be respected in those independent ministries, as well as the positions given to the ADN under the Pact for Democracy. [end recording]

Chavez Ortiz then added that there are no problems whatsoever between the ADN and the MNR, and that the disagreements within the MNR were overcome over the past weekend.

The ADN representative to the alliance, Guillermo Fortun, stated that the meeting was very constructive and that several resolutions were approved. He added, however, that these resolutions will have to be discussed further by the national Congress. [recorded passage indistinct]

Guillermo Fortun added that after the meeting with the president of the republic, some of the resolutions became very clear. These resolutions will be submitted for the consideration of the national congress within the next few hours. Fortun essentially referred to the subject of the nation's general budget in this way:

[Begin recording] The national congress' economic committee is preparing a memorandum that deals with the approval of the budget, which is necessary for the country's development. [end recording]

Those were the remarks made by the ADN representative at the end of the MNR-ADN meeting with the president at Government Palace. In conclusion, this meeting seems to have strengthened the Pact for Democracy signed by these two parties, which received the largest number of votes in the last election.

VICE PRESIDENT ON NEED TO DEVELOP BORDER AREAS

PY241400 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Bolivian Vice President Julio Garret Ayllon has launched a campaign to preserve the sovereignty of Pando Department and look after the needs of Nueva Esperanza, a town recently founded on the Brazilian border. All Bolivians have the duty to protect Bolivian sovereignty and, at this time, we must turn to a region where our national wealth is being plundered, Garret stated.

Garret reported that he has asked ministries, development corporations, and even international organizations to cooperate in the implementation of a development program for Pando Department. Garret's petition became known after Pando Prefect Ciro Villavicencio sent him a cable, saying that state dependencies, mainly hospitals and schools, must be urgently established in Nueva Esperanza and other border towns in northern Bolivia.

According to the vice president, some corporations, such as the Chuquisaca Development Corporation, have offered to send advisers to study the problems in Pando Department. The vice president said that there is no more time for studies: we need concrete actions. We know the needs of Pando. Funds are needed for hospitals, schools, utility companies, electrical power supply, communications, roads, and airports. We must concretely promote development in northern Bolivia, Garret concluded.

BRIEFS

EMBASSIES IN RIYADH, CAIRO -- Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal has reported that Bolivia is to improve relations with the Arab countries by reinstating foreign relations and installing representatives with the rank of ambassador in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Cairo, Egypt. [Excerpt] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 5 Feb 86 p 3 PY]

U.S. DEFENSE OFFICIAL IKLE CUTS VISIT SHORT

PY260247 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Feb 86 p 2

[Text] U.S. Defense Under Secretary Fred Ikle will spend only half a day in Sao Jose dos Campos visiting the most important Brazilian military equipment manufacturers. The visit will be shorter than the under secretary's adviser's originally proposed in Washington during the preparation phase of his trip to Brazil. The delegation will arrive in the morning at the terminal of the Airspace Technical Center (CTA), under strong security measures. After a quick visit with CTA director Brigadier Hugo Piva, Under Secretary Ikle will go to Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc] and Avibras [Brazilian Airspace Industry]. At 1500, the delegation will fly to Rio de Janeiro where they will stay until the following night when they return to the United States.

The visit to Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Enterprise] scheduled for the following morning has been cancelled. Officially, Itamaraty officials in Brasilia said that the cancellation resulted from a recent visit to Embraer by officers of the U.S. Air Force who inspected the Tucano T-27 plane. This model has been approved and will be included in the bid for the contract to provide 650 units to be used for training USAF cadets. Other Itamaraty sources, however, disclosed that the change in the program was prompted by Ikle's "considerable irritation" over the publicity about his visit to Brazil, which should have been kept secret. The under secretary may have also considered it inappropriate to visit an industry trying to sign a contract to supply the USAF.

The refusal of Fred Ikle to discuss the Brazilian participation in an eventual peace-keeping force in Central America was construed by Itamaraty officials as "a good result of the intelligence maneuver by Admiral Jose Maria do Amaral Oliveira, chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff, who, by stating last Saturday that Brazil's position is contrary to such a measure, headed off a proposal that was certainly in the making."

ASYLUM GRANTED TO FORMER HAITIAN POLICE CHIEF

PY242000 Paris AFP in Spanish 1938 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Brasilia, 24 Feb (AFP) -- The Brazilian News Agency ANDA today revealed in Brasilia that the Brazilian Government has granted political asylum to Colonel Albert Pierre, the former chief of the Haitian political police. According to that press agency, Ronaldo Costa, the assistant secretary for political affairs of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, has announced that Pierre, his wife Marie Ange, and a former police officer, Gener Cotin, will arrive in Brazil within the next few hours. All sought refuge in the Brazilian Embassy in Port-au-Prince when Jean-Claude Duvalier stepped down. According to ANDA they were given a temporary visa for Brazil.

Taken to Noronha Archipelago

PY260234 Rio de Janeiro Radio O GLOBO in Portuguese 0200 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Three political exiles from Haiti, Colonel Albert Pierre, his wife Marie Ange, and former police officer Gener Cotin, have been taken to the Fernando de Noronha Archipelago where they will remain until their legal situation is clarified.

According to an Itamaraty spokesman, sending the Haitians, who are accused of having tortured and killed hundreds of their countrymen, to the island would protect them from retaliation. The initiative caused surprise because it is the first time the Brazilian Government has adopted such an attitude regarding a request for asylum. The Haitian Embassy in Brazil has made no comment on the decision of Brasilia to grant asylum to the former servants of Baby Doc.

RECOGNITION OF PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WITHHELD

PY251449 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1054 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Brasilia, 25 Feb (EFE) -- Ronaldo Costa, under secretary for political affairs of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, has stated that Brazil does not recognize either of the two governments that were installed in Manila today. This high-ranking Brazilian Government official explained that his government's decision is based on international law, which makes it necessary for any new government to have territorial control. In Brasilia, Philippine Ambassador Sergio Barrera told the press through a spokesman that his mission is not being affected by the events taking place in Manila and that his business is continuing as usual.

GROUP TO LAUNCH DEBT NONPAYMENT CAMPAIGN

PY251242 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Feb 86 p 3

[Text] Sao Paulo -- The National Congress of the Working Classes (Conclat) will launch a campaign aimed at the suspension of the payments on the foreign debt. The campaign will include a 24-hour strike. The proposal was approved yesterday by the State Encounter of the Working Class (Enclat-Sao Paulo) after a 2-day meeting attended by 453 delegates from 74 organizations. The Enclat-Sao Paulo decided to reaffirm the principle demands of the working class: salary readjustments every 3 months, a 40-hour work week, agrarian reform, and increased purchasing power of salaries. The delegates also decided that pro-salary campaigns should be as unified as possible.

There was not much debate over the majority of decisions, but the atmosphere became tense during the election of the new directorate of the organization. Members of the PCB [Brazilian Communist Party], the PC do B [Communist Party of Brazil], and the MR-8 [8 October Revolutionary Movement] shoved and insulted each other. The new directorate will be headed by the president of the Sao Paulo Airline Workers Union, Oswaldo Ribeiro, who is a member of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party], but from the wing influenced by the PC do B. One member each of the PCB, the PC do B, and the MR-8 was included in the directorate.

MONETARY COUNCIL TAKES ANTI-INFLATION MEASURES

PY210102 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Finance Minister Dilson Funaro has reported that the National Monetary Council is holding telephone contacts to adopt measures to reduce consumption and lower the inflation rate. Among the measures to be adopted are: reducing credits to consumers to 48 months, including the financing of new and used cars; shortening the term imposed by automobile dealers' consortiums from 48 to 24 months; changing the policy regarding the limits imposed on special checks, which could be reduced to only 30 National Treasury Readjustable Bonds [ORTN]; and increasing the minimum monthly payment for credit cards, which today is 10 percent. The National Monetary Council could also end consortiums of used car dealers.

COLORADO'S INSFRAN DISCUSSES PARTY UNITY

PY220035 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 19 Feb 86 pp 14, 15

[Interview with Former Interior Minister Edgar L. Insfran by unidentified reporter in Asuncion -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Dr Insfran, do you believe this is a good time to deliver your note to the government junta?

[Insfran] I believe it is a good time to present this note because the Colorado forces should unite in full reconciliation. The long hegemony the party has achieved provokes and creates offensive actions and reactions inspired by ambitions and frustrations, which sometimes hurt. This may be reason enough for some people to break with the party and stand aside. However, politics go on. National life also goes on, in the same direction, so as not to stagnate. As in all democratic political parties there is a tendency to split. The Colorado Party is not immune to that. I believe that, above all, we should propose a general conciliation, reach out, as we are doing, to all Colorados.

[Question] Which clearly defined sectors do you recognize within the Colorado Party, and which ones are the group attempting to unite?

[Insfran] Well, we all know that there is some division and divergent opinions within the government junta. Some are called "traditionalists" and other "militants." Inside the party there are usually different currents of opinion. There is the Mopoco, etc, but I do not believe that the members of any of these groups stopped being Colorados, except those who really want to, by fully joining strategies and objectives of our political opponents. In this case, nothing can be done, they are no longer Colorados, they are something else. They know, however, that those who want to remain Colorado can remain Colorado.

[Question] The 34 people who signed the note which was sent to the government junta do not, for that reason, make up a new dissenting group?

[Insfran] No sir, by no means, and we do not want to either, because we do not have this intention. It is not our desire to go in that direction. We are not creating any group or sector or hoisting personal flags. In essence, what we propose to do is to reflect the opinions of a great part of the party which takes pride in being Colorado.

[Question] If we all agree that General Bernardino Caballero was the founder of the Colorado Party, might this be the basic figure or idea on which to promote the current unity?

[Insfran] Well, it depends on the leader who will do it. We know that what we are promoting is only an idea and a feeling, which we believe will grow in proportion to our prudence and wisdom. I believe it will go ahead. And there will be a leader to promote our project.

[Question] Have you spoken to Dr Chaves?

[Insfran] Yes, we have.

[Question] What have you spoken about? What does the party chairman think about the note you have presented?

[Insfran] Well, we merely handed the note to Dr Chaves and voiced the feelings which inspired us to write it. As expected, Dr Chaves reacted favorably to our visit. I believe other sectors have also reacted favorably.

[Question] Now, regarding another topic, you have said that in politics a person must be discreet. Can we consider the fact that you have been out of political events for such a long time proof of this discretion?

[Insfran] All positions have their right time. There is a time to observe, a time to sow, a time to harvest, a time to live, and a time to die. It is just a matter of time.

[Question] Do these words mean it is the time to go back into politics?

[Insfran] We have always considered it important to take action to defend our party. We cannot be indifferent to splits among people or sectors of the Colorado Party. This might be the reason for our half-logical, half-sentimental attitude.

[Question] How did the group come to be? Are there permanent ties among you, or has it only been a reunion inspired by the upcoming centennial?

[Insfran] No, we support the same cause, we are acquaintances, friends, and we have many more friends. The 34-name list does not reflect how many people support this cause. Actually, we are many more. There are very good people in this Group of 34, some of them are very good friends of mine: university professors, writers, economists, and intellectuals. I am one of the more modest members of the group, but they have created a situation in which I have to act almost as the spokesman.

[Question] Are you the leader?

[Insfran] No, not at all. We are all at the same level.

[Question] Do you meet regularly?

[Insfran] Yes, whenever necessary. We meet regularly, but we do not belong to any executive board. Therefore, we are not part of a faction, nor, are we fostering personalism.

[Question] If the note does not receive a favorable answer from the party leadership, what will the people who signed it do? Will the matter be closed, or will you try something else?

[Insfran] The answer to that question belongs to the realm of discretion, right? We cannot give an opinion yet.

[Question] Will you persist?

[Insfran] Of course. We know we will have to confront many difficulties, possibly a rejection. However, I do not believe a note conveying such a generous feeling and asking for nothing in return should be rejected. We are not asking for anything.

[Question] What do you think of the Colorado Party's future?

[Insfran] Thus far I am optimistic, despite all the shouting that goes on at times.

[Question] Anything else you would like to add?

[Insfran] We hope our optimistic expectations will come true, because this will benefit not only the Colorado Party but also national civic life.

GOVERNMENT DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF NAZI ARRIVAL

PY211515 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0057 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Asuncion, 20 Feb (EFE) -- The Paraguayan Foreign Ministry today denied knowing anything about the arrival in Paraguay of former Nazi officer Teodoro Suonnen after fleeing from Buenos Aires. "We know nothing about the arrival of Suonnen in this country," Paraguayan Interior Ministry spokesmen told EFE today. Suonnen, according to reports from Buenos Aires, fled from Argentina with forged Uruguayan documents after being discovered by Israeli secret service agents. Teodoro Suonnen, 77, who was traced last November to Buenos Aires Province, is accused of participating as an SS officer in the massacre of thousands of Jews.

GARCIA, WAR MINISTER ON ANTITERRORIST ACTION

PY251458 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Summary from poor reception] War Minister General Jorge Flores Torres has said that because of the "escalation in the wave of violence, the Armed Forces Joint Command is planning new emergency measures." He added that "the subversives are trying to find new ways to undertake spectacular actions," like the ones of the last few days. Meanwhile, "President Garcia has asserted that the government has declared it to be a physical and historical need to end the escalation of the Shining Path subversive violence in the Andean Trapezium. Garcia said that this group is inhuman because it captures and subjugates community leaders to make them serve as a link with the peasants who then die as cannon fodder. He stated that the Shining Path recently has suffered hard blows in the central mountain range, which had led it to try to enter Cusco Department by way of (Pilcahuamas), but that is now too late, according to President Garcia."

TUPAC AMARU GROUP FORMS ALLIANCE WITH M-19

PY250119 Paris AFP in Spanish 2145 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Lima, 24 Feb (AFP) -- Today in Lima, the Peruvian Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) confirmed that it belongs to the America Battalion [Batallon America], a subversive alliance with the Colombian M-19 Group and the Ecuadoran Alfaro Lives group. In a communique sent to AFP, the MRTA stated that the America Battalion opens a new combat front against imperialism in the South American Andes, where the people of Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia have taken arms to secure a definite victory in a second Ayacucho battle.

Ayacucho, aside from being the main stronghold of the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla group, the most violent guerrilla group in Peru, was in 1824 the stage of battle between liberator Simon Bolivar's troops and Spanish troops. That battle brought South America independence from colonialism. The MRTA asserted that three of its squadrons have joined the America Battalion in Colombia, headed by Captain Francisco. The squadron are named: Leoncio Prado, Juan Pablo Chang, and Diego Cristobal Tupac Amaru.

The MRTA's urban guerrilla groups, made up mainly of university students and workers, asserted in the communique that between 9 and 14 February it held its third central committee meeting in Lima. On that occasion, they asserted their performance and established a position regarding President Alan Garcia's social democratic government. The MRTA included two photographs with the communique. These photographs were of some 15 hooded and armed men and women who took part in the meeting. The MRTA said that despite some arrests, the organization has kept its original structure and developed its political and military experience.

In August 1985 the MRTA granted President Garcia's government a 2-month truce in response to his call for pacification, but then announced its reappearance with dynamite attacks against hotels, restaurants, discotheques, and clubs frequented by Lima's high society. Upon reiterating that it would continue to raise arms, the MRTA summoned the Shining Path, labor unions, popular organizations, the military and the church to fulfill our aspirations with arms.

The MRTA communique charges the Peruvian Government with failing to solve the problems of hunger and poverty and with applying economic measures that are merely designed to disguise the distressing socioeconomic situation endured by the large majority of our people. The MRTA demands that the foreign debt not be paid, that the oil and mining sector be nationalized, that the food shortage be solved, that the state of emergency be lifted, and the arrested terrorists be freed. It also accused the government of maintaining a hesitant and slightly reformist stance. The communique questions the efficiency of the peace commission created by Alan Garcia to pacify the country, and asserts that the state of emergency, in force in 19 Peruvian Provinces, and in Lima since 7 February allows the Armed Forces to control 40 percent of the population. The communique issued by the Peruvian guerrilla group ends by stating that the so-called dirty war in rebellious areas continues and demands that military and policemen responsible for massacres and disappearances be tried in a court of law.

GARCIA RECEIVES VISITING NETHERLANDS MINISTER

PY221616 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] President Garcia today held a meeting with the Netherlands' international cooperation and development minister, Eegje Schoo. The distinguished visitor arrived at the Presidential Palace at 0950, where she was welcomed by a presidential attache. During the meeting, Garcia and the foreign visitor allegedly discussed issues of great importance to the two nations. The Netherlands is one of the countries that maintains a vast cooperation program in Peru.

At present, the Netherlands has invested approximately \$40 million in rural programs and this year cooperation will increase by about 15 million florins. According to what the Netherlands minister has stated, her government will intercede before the Paris Club so that the Latin American countries can receive some relief in their foreign debt payments. Minister Schoo left government palace at 1015 and immediately left for Cusco, where the Netherlands is financing a series of development programs.

GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

PA242007 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Report by special correspondent Alfonso Gomez from Puerto Vallarta -- recorded]

[Text] In the present conditions, foreign investment should become a valuable tool to obtain the country's economic goals. For this reason, the Mexican Government will reconsider certain restrictions on foreign investment, without suspending its vigilance and selectivity in certain areas. This was said by the office of the under-secretary of foreign investment through its director of publicity, Mario Espinosa de los Reyes, who spoke to Mexican and U.S. businessmen.

Espinosa de los Reyes pointed out that Mexico's economic sovereignty will take precedence over the interests of any sector. Espinosa de los Reyes attended a seminar on analysis of the prospects of Mexican-U.S. relations. He said that it is increasingly necessary to sign an expanded trade agreement with the neighboring country to the north.

DE LA MADRID SPEECH DRAWS PRAISE, CRITICISM

PA250408 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 22 Feb 86 p 4

[Text] President Miguel de la Madrid drew praise and criticism almost immediately after he finished delivering his speech on the foreign debt and other economic matters.

PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] Deputy Eliseo Mendoza Berrueto, majority leader in the Chamber of Deputies, praised the message as "honest" and "nationalistic," while the leaders of the opposition parties United Mexican Socialist, PSUM, and Revolutionary Workers Party, PRT, attacked it as "incomplete" and "partial."

In a less partisan response, Deputy Heberto Castillo of the Mexican Workers Party, PMT, said time had to be allowed for negotiations with foreign creditors.

Senate Chairman Antonio Riva Palacio termed the presidential message "an open call for joint efforts of all social classes -- a vigorous call to unity and a committed presentation." "We must respond to the call by President Miguel de la Madrid to contribute with everything serving to fulfill proposed actions," the Senate leader said.

Interviewed immediately after De la Madrid went off the air, politicians aired their expected but differing opinions.

Mendoza Berrueto said "Our country has always sought dialogue and negotiation not only among debtors and creditors, but also between producers and consumers."

Castillo adopted a wait-and-see attitude. "Let us wait to see the type of negotiations to be made, because while it is good to recognize that we have no payment capacity, adjustments must be made without being detrimental to the workers," the deputy said.

This contrasted with the attitudes of Deputy Pedro Penaloza of the PRT and Deputy Martinez Verdugo of the PSUM. They came out against Mexico's economic policy and said the president's speech circumvented suspension of payments and left the solution of the conflict in the hands of creditors.

Labor leader Fidel Velazquez, secretary general of the Mexican Workers Confederation, CTM, uncharacteristically refused to comment. Velazquez brushed reporters aside, saying: "I will make no declarations...I will make no declarations." But the presidential message received a warm response from the business sector whose leaders pledged to reinvest and search for new formulas to help bring Mexico out of the crisis. Business leaders also expressed faith in De la Madrid's policies.

Claudio X. Gonzalez, chairman of the Businessmen's Coordinating Council, said all Mexicans have the responsibility to face the problems associated with the debt.

Carlos Mireles, president of the National Manufacturers Association, CANACINTRA, said he was pleased by the president's reference to the corresponsibility of creditors and debtors, "because this is the only way to make our creditors accept the fact that we must export so that they can collect."

Nicolas Madahuar, president of the Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce, CONCANACO, said businessmen are willing to confirm their total support for the president.

Silvestre Fernandez, president of the Confederation of Manufacturers Associations, CONCANMIN, said the group is confident in the country's economy. All members of the confederation have capital invested in Mexico, he said.

COMPARISON OF PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS ON ECONOMY

Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish on 24 February, pp 2 and 3, publishes the text of the 21 February address by President De la Madrid on the economy. The EL NACIONAL version has been compared to the version published in the 24 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, pp M1-M9, revealing the following clarifications:

Page M2, penultimate paragraph, line two reads...after the oil crash, the basic problems...(changing "conflict" to "crash")

Page M3, paragraph three, line one, reads: Regarding the oil crash, the government will...(changing "conflict" to "crash")

Page M5, paragraph two, line six reads: ...time, we will present necessary changes in... (confirming queried word "present")

Page M7, paragraph three, line two reads: ...nation's values and institutions, it is a... (changing "intentions" to "institutions")

SOVIET ENVOY ON COOPERATION WITH OIL NATIONS

FL251536 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2225 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 24 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Rostislav Sergeyev has said his country is ready to cooperate with all oil-producing nations to balance the international oil market. He said the Soviet Union is in favor of serious negotiations, which will have practical consequences. Once a decision has been made, he said, the Soviet Union will work jointly with oil-producing nations. Sergeyev said his country has made a proposal to the United Nations for a world program which would guarantee international economic security. Within this plan, said the ambassador, the Soviet Union is willing to cooperate and maintain negotiations with all countries.

U.S. ENVOY-DESIGNATE REMARKS CAUSE 'CONTROVERSY'

PRD, Military, Delvalle Disagree

PA241954 Panama City EXTRA in Spanish 24 Feb 86 p 6

[Text] Serious disagreements have developed between the Democratic Revolutionary Party's [PRD's] top leaders, some members of the military top echelons, and President Eric Arturo Delvalle as a result of the pressure the PRD has exerted on President Delvalle to reject the appointment of Arthur Davis as new U.S. ambassador to Panama, a well-informed source has reported.

The U.S. diplomat's statement before the U.S. Senate's Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs that as soon as he is installed in his post he will insist on the appointment of an independent commission to investigate the Spadafora case has caused such alarm among the PRD members and military men that they have decided to declare Davis persona non grata. According to our informer, Delvalle does not support that position, because such an action could affect the current negotiations with the World Bank, and could further aggravate the current tense relations with the government of President Ronald Reagan.

EXTRA has also learned that a group of parliamentarians of the so-called PRD "faction" headed by Legislator Luis Gomez will present a proposal at the Legislative Assembly when sessions resume next month, requesting that Arthur Davis not be accepted as ambassador to our country. According to the source, the discussions between the PRD military men and Delvalle made him arrive late at a ceremony to close the Fifth Industrial Meeting.

PDC Defends Davis

PA251951 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Feb 86 p 24 A

[Text] The National Directorate of the Christian Party [PDC] has issued a statement on the controversy over the new U.S. ambassador to Panama, Arthur Davis.

The PDC said that "Statements and actions in favor of the enforcement of human rights and democratization, regardless of where they come from, are one form of solidarity that the conscience of the Latin American peoples not only accepts but also demands. If we praised these statements and actions when they concerned Nicaragua under Somoza, Haiti under Duvalier, or the Philippines under Marcos, why are we going to oppose them when they concern our country under the current military leadership?"

The statement adds that "It is true that a military leadership is ruling Panama and that civilians truly elected by the people should be in command. It is true that the murder of Dr Hugo Spadafora has not been truly investigated as it is recorded in the explanation of the vote given by Magistrate Almendral and over which our people are demanding justice. It is true that human rights have been violated, particularly freedom of expression, and that our people are demanding that these violations do not occur again. These truths are the truth, regardless of who is saying them." In another part of the statement, the PDC said that "For many years, the U.S. Government has sponsored -- by action or through omission -- dictatorships in Panama and in other countries under the pretext of security or other secondary interests. Therefore, Latin Americans have justly criticized the United States. In the measure in which this attitude changes and openly favors democracy and human rights, we must then admit the positive aspect of this change."

The PDC accuses the PRD "and its military and civilian chiefs" of being "guilty of promoting all sorts of interventions in our affairs by part of all sorts of governments and foreign groups. Besides, it has intervened in many adventures in other countries, and all this has been done in order to strengthen its antidemocratic and corrupted regime. It has even promoted the signing of a treaty by which it granted -- by unilateral decision -- the United States the right to intervene militarily in Panama. Now, it is reacting in a different manner, mainly because the international community no longer favors its regime."

The PDC concludes: "Beyond the controversy, what we Panamanians must now do is to retake the path of democratization, the effective administration of justice, and the enforcement of human rights. National dignity and the patriotism that defends this dignity so demand it, rather than mocking the same rights."

EXTRA Editorial

PA241905 Panama City EXTRA in Spanish 24 Feb 86 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "On the Spot"]

[Text] The military leadership, through its political spokesmen, has instructed its puppet president to declare U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis persona non grata after the Panamanian Government had already issued its approval of the appointment, in other words, after it had said in diplomatic language, "welcome to our country." After sending this to President Reagan, the real power instructs President Delvalle "to notify President Reagan that Ambassador Davis is persona non grata."

If it were not for the fatal repercussions on the employment and economic crisis and the fiscal bankruptcy caused by the dictatorship, not by the World Bank or the IMF, this extraordinary about-face could be described as a comic operetta. All of this is due to what Ambassador Davis stated to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: "The Panamanian military men must understand that the military obeys the civilian government and not vice versa," he added: "I will do whatever possible to prevent arrests such as those of journalist Guillermo Sanchez Borbon, and I will be interested in the solution of the horrible decapitation of Dr Hugo Spadafora."

The Foreign Ministry has described Ambassador Davis' remarks as "insolent," and the military party has demanded that President Delvalle declare Ambassador Davis persona non grata for stating what all the Panamanian people desire. Delvalle has now announced that he will request a "clarification of what Ambassador Davis stated to decide whether he will be declared persona non grata. The government is not so naive that it does not understand that whatever an ambassador states, especially in a Senate committee hearing, is not even remotely his personal opinion. [no end quotation as published]

Whatever Ambassador Davis states to the committee -- whether one likes it or not -- is the considered opinion of the Pentagon, the State Department, the National Security Council, and President Ronald Reagan. It is the official opinion of the U.S. Government. And that is that.

President Delvalle has the last word; either he rejects Davis as ambassador of President Reagan, and may God help him, or he accepts Davis as ambassador of President Reagan, and may God also help him. That is what one calls being put ON THE SPOT [upper case as published]

LA PRENSA Lauds Davis

PA211815 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Feb 86 p 1

["As of Today" column]

[Text] For too long the United States has deliberately ignored the Panamanian political reality, acting as if the presidential system of government existed normally in our country. The annual reports that the State Department presents to Congress on the human rights situation in Panama prompt a distorted image of the Panamanian Government structure, with little or no mention of the predominance of the military in public life.

Surprisingly, the U.S. ambassador-designate to Panama, Arthur Davis, stated in his confirmation hearing at the Senate subcommittee on Western Hemisphere affairs: "We have to be clear and make them see that the civilians must govern the military. That is not the case in Panama." Naturally, those who want what is really happening in Panama to remain unknown will be angry about Ambassador Davis' remark, but no one can honestly question the veracity of that statement. "We must," the ambassador added, "firmly insist that the military be under civilian power." We added: Nothing would be better for Panama.

Columnist Rejects Davis

PA240308 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 21 Feb 86 p 4

["Political Coliseum" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua: "Deliver Us Lord, From Our Turncoat Traitors"]

[Text] If a person confesses...there is no need for evidence, according to an old legal proverb. At last LA PRENSA columnist Guillermo Sanchez Borbon has been unmasked as a renegade, traitor, turncoat, U.S.-paid agent, and CIA informer. The front page of yesterday's edition of that newspaper unmasked the man in question when it highlighted the crude and shameful intervention of a U.S. diplomat in our country's internal affairs. Naturally, this pleases those who would like to see the fatherland on its knees before Uncle Sam and those who could not care less about the blood that has been shed for almost a century by the various generations who have struggled to recover our sovereignty and national dignity.

A dispatch datelined Washington indicates that Mr Davis, the new U.S. ambassador to Panama, demonstrated "that he was very well informed" about Sanchez' arrest and that "Ambassador Briggs had undertaken all the necessary actions before President Delvalle upon learning of the arrest."

With the cynicism characteristic of his servile mind, the dispatch added that Mr Davis said "we must warn (the Panamanian Government) that this type of arrest must not continue, etc." As a matter of principle, I disagree with Sanchez' arrest or persecution, or that of any fellow journalist, and I believe -- and I take full responsibility for this statement -- the district attorney who ordered his arrest made a colossal mistake. However, I will never accept, as a Panamanian and a patriot, any ambassador, whether a gringo, Frenchman, or any other nationality, being so impudent as to voice warnings of any kind, disrespectful of our status as an independent and sovereign nation.

In several earlier columns I warned that Sanchez Borbon is an agent paid by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency who has infiltrated the newspaper LA PRENSA.

Those surprised by the kind of "information" handled by the well-known individual and who are overcome with "admiration" for his talents, must know very well that a person who does not have direct contact with the CIA station operating under diplomatic cover in every country of the world cannot know the details supplied in the "In a Few Words" column.

If the U.S. ambassador's maid breaks wind, or if something happens among high government circles, which have been infiltrated to the marrow by faithless people paid to guard U.S. interest, Sanchez Borbon is immediately informed. Only informers have access to much detailed information.

He who yesterday was a member of the board of directors of the Communist Party (People's Party) and later became a turncoat to the party's ideology, sticks stubbornly to Trotskyite concepts and as such is another U.S. imperialist peon. Like all Trotskyites, he serves those interests even if by doing so he betrays his native country. I am not surprised by his attitude, and that is why I have unmasked him. I repeat: I do not support his persecution, but I do point an accusing finger, because to be a CIA agent is to be a traitor to our long-suffering peoples' interests.

Another newspaper, a local weekly, yesterday reported that former President Nicolas Ardito Barletta had called Washington to complain that the military is "pressuring" him. That means that Sanchez Borbon is not the only conspicuous member of the group that drags itself before the Yankee leaders. Fortunately, these specimens enjoy the well earned rejection of their people.

Because of all that I have said here, I now suggest that President Delvalle and Foreign Minister Abadia reject the daring Mr Davis as ambassador so that he will learn to be respectful.

REAGAN PRAISED FOR ENCOURAGING DEMOCRACY

PA241309 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Feb 86

[Text] Strictly military governments have prevailed in a large number of Latin American nations during the last 5 years. Very few could boast that they have done so through the people's vote. Their creation as military juntas has mostly been due to bloody coups d'etat. Likewise, very few have spontaneously carried out a democratic transition to a civil government. History is full of these events. Its pages cannot deny the fact that many of these military regimes received the U.S. Government's approval during many years. This was basically due to ideological reasons. One seldom saw in these military regimes leftist elements which dared to defy the U.S. Governments' democratic position. The Latin American countries' economic dependence on the colossus of the North is very well known.

History shows us many facets of this situation in nations like Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Grenada, Haiti, and others. It is no secret that, given the Latin American nations' dependence in economic matters, U.S. Governments have had almost unlimited influence in their internal affairs. There have been occasions when the stability or power of a military regime has depended exclusively on the United States' decision.

This situation has depended, to a great extent, on the viewpoints or guidelines of the current U.S. president. Within this evident concept and position, the United States has had presidents with benign guidelines concerning the governments handled by a military junta and others who could not stand the existence of this type of government structure in this part of the continent.

One cannot deny that this last case includes Mr Ronald Reagan, the current President of the United States. It cannot be denied that the current U.S. President has been discarding, since he arrived at the White House, each regime led by a military junta, and he has pulled every possible string in Latin America so that democratic transitions are carried out in all the nations where this type of political phenomenon is observed. The U.S. Government has continuously struggled, through every possible means -- all of them of a well-known superiority -- so that free elections are held in nations governed by military juntas, thus allowing the people to choose their own government.

This is how the fall of many military juntas has been observed in many Latin American countries. President Reagan is undoubtedly responsible for the fact that a democratic and healthy evolution is being experienced in the Latin American sector of the American continent. President Reagan's policy to democratize America is positive and beneficial for all the nations which have lived and continue to live in these conditions.

PRD PRESIDENT CHARGES PDC 'SEDITION' CAMPAIGN

PA250254 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] PRD President Romulo Escobar Bethancourt has announced a mobilization at the national and provincial level of all the party's cadres to stop the PDC's campaign for instability and sedition and the disruption of the country's democratic life. Accompanied by leaders of the PRD National Executive Council, Dr Escobar Bethancourt asserted that this is a plan to oust President Eric Arturo Delvalle and depose Defense Forces Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega through a conspiracy like those used in Haiti and the Philippines.

Following a report on the PDC's political actions to create a destabilizing movement at the national level, starting with Chiriqui, Bethancourt said that the next meeting of the Democratic Opposition Alliance, which is scheduled for 14 March, is aimed at continuing sedition through elements within the U.S. Department of State which would exert economic pressure against Panama.

[Begin Bethancourt recording -- in progress] ... take over the government and then charge the Defense Forces into a simple civilian police force. They say that the Defense Forces' transformation into such a force is supported by a sector in the U.S. Department of State, which thinks that instituting a simple civilian police force would ensure that Panama would not be able to fulfill its pledge of assuming the exclusive defense of the Panama Canal in 1999, as stated in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Consequently, the United States would continue to maintain a military presence in the Republic of Panama. [end recording]

COSTA RICACONTRA AID NOT DISCUSSED AT ARIAS-SHLAUDEMANN TALK

PA260229 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] This morning Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez met with Harry Shlaudemann, U.S. roving ambassador for Central America, at Arias' residence for more than an hour. The U.S. official visited Arias accompanied by U.S. Embassy security agents. Arias was accompanied during the interview by his brother, deputy-elect Rodrigo Arias Sanchez, and Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, who has been mentioned as the future foreign minister in the coming administration.

At the end of his interview with Shlaudemann, Arias expressed satisfaction over their conversation and described it as cordial and friendly. He said they exchanged views on how to attain peace and democracy in Central America. The president-elect denied that he discussed his statements with Shlaudemann regarding U.S. economic and military aid for the counterrevolutionaries in Nicaragua.

Arias stated that he still opposes U.S. aid to the counterrevolutionaries. He stressed that he feels the Central American and Nicaraguan conflict must be solved diplomatically, a stance that prevails throughout Latin America. He added that what counts is that he is only moved by desire for the country's good and its social and economic development and that for this reason peace in Central America is indispensable.

In addition, Arias denied that his statements showed discourtesy toward U.S. President Ronald Reagan, since such statements did not occur unofficially but during an interview. He added that there is nothing to worry about (?because) there are many common points and few discrepancies between Costa Rica and the United States, and that he is accustomed to disagreements. He remarked that sometimes it is necessary to say yes and sometimes no, and that he is in the right state of mind for this. Finally, Arias said that he acknowledges the U.S. aid for Costa Rica, without which the country's economic stability would not have been possible.

HONDURASAZCONA CALLS FOR LOCAL CONTROL OF REFUGEE CAMPS

PA241917 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1714 GMT 24 Feb 86

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo today demanded control over the special refugee camps that exist in the country.

The president indicated that "the control of the camps that are supposedly under the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is really in the hands of refugee committees."

"That should not be so because it is harmful to our sovereign interests in addition to the fact that it causes many problems that later cannot be resolved as they should be," Azcona Hoyo said.

"We want our authorities to have jurisdiction over the camps, to be responsible for their control and security, and to protect our citizens from abuses committed by the refugees," he added.

Azcona Hoyo stressed that "Honduras is not a signatory of the international treaty on refugees and it accepts Central American citizens who flee the violence in their countries solely for humanitarian reasons, and that is why the control of those camps must be exclusively in the hands of Hondurans."

Honduras is currently sheltering approximately 40,000 refugees from El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala in camps located near the borders of those countries.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA CONGRATULATES NEW PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT

PA260335 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0010 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Message sent by President Daniel Ortega to Philippine President Corazon Aquino dated 25 February in Managua; read by unidentified official of the Press and Information Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic -- live or recorded]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino:

On the occasion of your accession to the presidency of the new provisional government, I have the honor of congratulating you in the name of the Nicaraguan Government and myself. I also express to you our joy over the definite downfall of the Marcos dictatorship.

Like all nations that are struggling today to achieve or maintain their independence, Nicaragua is certain that in the new Philippines the people's hopes for democracy, independence, and social justice will continue to triumph over the forces of backwardness and foreign dependence.

Faternally,

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic

ORTEGA CRITICIZES REAGAN'S SUPPORT FOR CONTRAS

PA251915 Managua International Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of Nicaragua, visited the heroic town of Pantasma, located more than 200 km from Managua in the northern department of Jinotega over the weekend. Pantasma is a symbol in Nicaragua because just as other border towns, it has withstood mercenary attacks such as the one that took place on 18 October 1983. On that occasion, with courage and determination, its residents prevented the counterrevolutionary seizure of that town, despite having suffered the loss of 43 heroes who died in the struggle.

The president explained to the Pantasma residents that the revolution will continue to distribute land to the peasants so that they will make it produce and that it will continue to distribute rifles so they can defend it.

Before Commander Ortega Saavedra spoke, African citizen Andimba Toivo, who accompanied the president on the visit to the Nicaraguan town, spoke. We will now present the explanation that the Nicaraguan president gave about Africa and Namibia and then you will hear the dialogue that he held with the residents of the heroic town of Pantasma, most of whom are relatives of peasants who have been murdered by the mercenaries.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Ortega] ...from the African Continent, from southern Africa where there are two peoples, the people of Namibia and the people of South Africa who want to liberate themselves. They are struggling for their liberation, but the enemies of those peoples are oppressing them. They oppress them. They exploit them. Reagan and the U.S. leaders are in fact supporting that policy of oppression against the peoples of South Africa and Namibia. Companero Andimba spent 18 years in jail. The racists had him imprisoned for 18 years. Only a few years ago, in 1984, was he freed. He was in jail 18 years. They are a hard-working people. They are peasants, miners, and workers who are struggling to achieve their freedom.

The Nicaraguan people, the Nicaraguan Government, and the FSLN are confident and sure that even though Reagan has been giving his support to the Somozas of those countries who exploit and oppress the people of Namibia and South Africa, the Namibian and South African peoples are going to be free. They are going to triumph just like the Nicaraguan revolution was victorious.

Today when we meet here in Pantasma we wanted to know through a direct dialogue with you about your concerns, problems, and your ideas to solve those problems. Pantasma is one of the many symbolic locations in Nicaragua. The truth is that Nicaragua is full of locations that have become symbols of the sacrifice and struggle of the Nicaraguan people. Some years ago, the counterrevolutionaries attacked Pantasma.

Father D'Escoto is carrying out a march from Jalapa to Managua. He is doing this for peace. Right now he is carrying out a march of the Nicaraguan Christians in favor of peace. He is doing this so that there will be peace in Jalapa, in Pantasma, in all Nicaragua. Listening to your accounts, we remember that in 1983 the attack on Pantasma caused a great commotion in Nicaragua and was widely reported in the world because of the brutality of the attack. The contras carried out a slaughter of poor, hard-working peasants. The contras came here to murder peasants. They came to murder poor and humble people. They came to destroy the tools that those poor people had to work. That is what the contras want for the working people. They only want to destroy and murder.

Why do the contras act this way? Because U.S. President Ronald Reagan has gotten it into his head that the Sandinist revolution must be destroyed, that the Nicaraguan revolution must be destroyed, that it was better in Nicaragua under Somoza. Why? because Reagan would rather have a Somoza in Nicaragua than reach an understanding with the Nicaraguan people; because Reagan is a friend of the exploiters. Reagan is a friend of the rich. Reagan is a friend of the capitalists and an enemy of the poor. He is an enemy of the peasants and workers. What is Reagan doing right now in the United States? He is cutting the U.S. budget allocations to the social sector. In other words, he is making cuts in everything that benefits the poor and the elderly to have more money to spend on armaments. He is always thinking just about war. He thinks like Adolf Hitler, that infamous personality in the history of mankind who provoked World War II. He also wanted to own the world. Reagan thinks the same way. Reagan has paid the mercenaries and above all the chiefs of the mercenaries so that they will come murder the workers. In other words, we have Reagan on the top, paying, then come the chiefs of the contras. The real chief of the contras is Reagan.

He is followed by the other chiefs of the contras: Bermudez, Calero, and so forth. The military chiefs come next. Under them come the former guardsmen and others who are peasants who were kidnapped and taken by force and trained and sent to kill their Nicaraguan brothers.

Reagan sends the money so that the Nicaraguans can kill each other. Look how nice! He doesn't come to risk his neck here, but he does give the money to some bad Nicaraguans so they will come kill the Nicaraguans who have carried out the revolution, so they will come kill the peasants and the workers. Therefore, Reagan's policy is criminal. It is a terrorist policy that is making victims out of all the Nicaraguans. He has made a victim out of the companera who told us here how her brother was killed by the contras and he has made a victim out of the lady who asked for the release of her nephew and the other lady who asked for the release of her son-in-law, both of whom are involved with the contras.

Why are some people around here involved with the contras? Because Reagan has wanted to involve them. Why are the peasants around here killed by the contras? Because Reagan has given money to the contras so they can kill the peasants. Therefore, Reagan is causing sorrow and grief in the Nicaraguan family. A woman was explaining here that she has two sons in the service and another in the contras. In other words, Reagan has come to divide the Nicaraguan family.

[Indistinct passage with woman explaining the situation]

[Ortega] Correct, yes, but he is not responsible. Reagan is responsible because Reagan deceived him and is now making you suffer. That is the problem. You are suffering the same or perhaps there is more suffering by the mother whose son has been murdered. Nicaraguans are dying every day. You have seen Nicaraguans die here. More than 40, 48, 47 peasants died here when the contras came to Pantasma. Now then, the people's army must fight against the contras. There is no other way. If you are given the opportunity, then you have the opportunity to come back to the country and seek amnesty. The opportunity to get pardoned is there. To those who seek this pardon, fine. There are many Nicaraguans who have already sought this pardon. Many have deserted. We have a number of them here. They are completely safe here. The revolution won't harm them.

However, on the other hand, there are those who don't accept this yet and who have become couriers or combatants of the counterrevolution. So, we must strike them hard. We must strike them very hard. Why? Because, what are we defending here? We don't sell farms. We are not in the business of selling farms. We want the farms and the lands for the peasants. (?This is why we are fighting.) Therefore, that which we are defending with our Army is the peasants' right to own land and to have their own cooperative. What would you prefer? Would you rather have us return the land to the landowners, the rich, and the capitalists? [Crowd shouts: "No, no!"] What do you prefer? [Crowd shouts: "Land!"]

You are even asking for more land. Then, if we want more land we must defend this land. What will we defend it with? [Crowd shouts: "Weapons!"] Well, we have to defend it with weapons because you can't talk any other way to those people. Can you talk to the contras any other way? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] How do you speak to the contras? [Crowd shouts: "With rifles!"] We have to speak with weapons. Then, the slogan is land and rifles.

What are the rifles for? To get the land. What is the land for? It is for the peasants. Land and rifles. What is the land for? The land is for the peasants. This is what we are defending.

Consequently, we are striking the contras. The contras are fleeing to Honduras and Costa Rica in a hurry. There are many casualties. We are defeating the contras. The counterrevolution has no possibility of success.

A few years ago, the counterrevolution kept saying that it was going to succeed. They kept saying: We will succeed this year. There were some people who, out of ignorance or out of wanting to be smart, believed the contras' story and became armed couriers or helped the contras, and some even left with the contras.

The truth is that the counterrevolution has no possibility of success. On the contrary, the people's defense keeps growing because Nicaragua's Army is made up of all the people. It is made up of the peasants, the workers, and the youth. They are Nicaragua's Army. Thus, we have a powerful Army. [Words indistinct] it is an Army of workers, peasants, and laborers. Therefore, the counterrevolution cannot succeed, even when Reagan makes efforts, just as he is doing right now, to ask for more funds so the counterrevolution can continue to destroy cooperatives and schools, and so the contras can come to Pantasma to destroy it and kill its peasants. Why? Because this is what the contras do. Have you seen the contras building schools? Do the contras build schools, health centers, hospitals, or cooperatives? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] All the contras do is shoot and kill the peasants. All they offer is terror.

Regarding other problems mentioned here, the companeros here responded. We wanted to refer to the issue of the prisoners. Whose fault is it that some of your relatives were jailed? Because of Reagan. If Reagan, instead of giving money for Nicaraguans to kill one another, gave us money for Nicaraguans to work, do you think those peasants would have dared to think of going to the contras? There were no contras until Reagan came and invented the contras. He began to give money and weapons to the contras, and certain people got involved in that. Therefore, the person who is responsible for this is Reagan. He is responsible for the deaths of Nicaraguans. He is responsible for those killed by the contras and those killed by the people in the fighting.

Regarding the prisoners, we have laws here, and laws must be respected. I was going through some of the correspondence here. I was reading some of the letters you sent me. Certain companeras asked that the situation of the prisoners be settled. They want trials to be held and decisions on guilt or innocence to be made. I think they are right.

If a prisoner has been held under investigation for 10 or 12 hours, it is already time that he be taken to the pertinent court and let the court decide whether he is guilty or not and establish the sentence -- 10, 20, or 30 years -- or let him free. Some are freed, and some are kept in jail. This is how justice is. Therefore, we will look into this so that, as soon as possible, all these cases here be transferred to the pertinent courts. [Words indistinct] the court will decide if he will be sentenced or if he will be released.

We want to leave you all, companeros peasants, and companeras women of Pantasma, with a warm greeting from the FSLN National Directorate and the Government of Nicaragua.

We also want to convey the greeting of the Nicaraguan workers who are producing in Nicaraguan cities so that some of their products can be sent to the rural sector.

They are producing clothes, shoes, and certain garments for the peasants, as well as food for the peasants. It is true that you produce the basic food, but there are some things that are processed in the cities by industrial workers which benefit the peasants.

We are sure you will continue to get better organized and join the military service, the militias, the reserve battalions so that you can defend your land because we are clear about one thing: We will lose the land if we don't defend the revolution militarily. The land must be defended. As long as there is aggression, we must sow the land with the rifles at our side.

MIXED COMMISSION MEETING WITH COSTA RICA BEGINS

PA242238 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1750 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said that the Central American problem is not only a problem of peace but also one of regional security. Tinoco made this statement during the installation of the mixed commission for the supervision and prevention of border incidents between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Participating in this meeting are: Gerardo Trejos, Costa Rican deputy foreign minister; Guillermo Fernandez de Soto, Colombian deputy foreign minister; Jose Maria Cabrera, Panamanian deputy foreign minister; and Gerardo de Navas, Venezuelan deputy foreign minister. The following are Deputy Foreign Minister Tinoco's words during the opening session of the meeting:

[Begin recording] We have gathered here today, within the framework of this commission for the supervision and prevention of border incidents between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, to study and discuss, with the support of the Contadora countries, the specific steps to be taken by Costa Rica and Nicaragua to improve our relations and resolve and prevent any incidents or problems that could exist on our mutual border.

This meeting was convoked as a result of the political wills of the governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and it was officially requested on 15 February during the Contadora Group meeting held in Panama through a letter signed by the deputy foreign ministers of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. [end recording]

The Nicaraguan delegation is headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, Commander Roberto Calderon, Commander Jose Valdivia, Captain Ricardo Wheelock, and Claudia Chamorro, Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica.

SOVIET TIES STRESSED AS CPSU 27TH CONGRESS BEGINS

PA251353 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Feb 86

["Note" read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro is in Moscow to attend the 27th CPSU Congress, which has been described as historical by those who have (?requested the floor) to analyze in-depth the topics to be discussed. This new visit to the USSR by Fidel Castro is undoubtedly an expression of the high level of relations between the two nations, which are based on the equality of purpose and the [word indistinct] spirit of friendship and proletarian internationalism. These ties have been basic for Cubans in their confrontation of Yankee imperialism and consolidation of revolutionary power. We will never forget, and this has been reiterated by President Fidel Castro, that it was the USSR that purchased our sugar when Washington closed its market with the purpose of strangling us economically, and that the oil required by Cuba for the last 25 years has been coming from Soviet ports without interruption.

With Soviet arms we have been able to abort all military aggressions prepared by Washington, and therefore not only have we consolidated the Revolutionary Armed Forces, we are also providing supplies for the Territorial Troops Militia, which has over 1 million members and is an indispensable factor in the struggle of all the people in the event of an enemy attack.

The USSR is also cooperating with Cuba in the construction of our first nuclear power plant; important expansion of the nickel industry; geological protection; development of land, sea, and air transportation; and many other economic and scientific fields. During difficult times, such as when Hurricane Kate recently passed through Cuba, firm and spontaneous support from the first state of workers and peasants of the world has arrived for the Cuban people.

These shows of solidarity, respect, and admiration for revolutionary Cuba are part of history and an eloquent example of the relations between a first-class power and a nation struggling for development. They are also unequivocal expressions of eternal ties that will never be negotiated with the enemy.

U.S. RESPONDS TO GORBACHEV ARMS PROPOSAL

PA260139 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 86

["Note" by Miguel Cabrera]

[Text] Approximately 1 and 1/2 months after the Soviet Union made known to the world its most recent peace initiative, and on the eve of the opening of the 27th CPSU Congress, the White House response to the Soviet disarmament program has been released to the U.S. press. This program provides for scrapping, before the year 2000, all nuclear and chemical weapons, the reduction of conventional forces, and the noncreation of shock cosmic means [medios cosmiicos de choque]. The proposal was favorably received by all peace-loving forces and even by numerous Western governments.

According to THE WASHINGTON POST, the objective of the U.S. response, which has not yet been officially released, is to extricate the United States from the unfavorable diplomatic position in which it finds itself with regard to the serious problem of disarmament. In other words, Ronald Reagan's administration does not foresee the achievement of an agreement, much less the elimination of the danger of a nuclear war that looms over humankind. This is not hard to demonstrate.

The U.S. proposal deals with only one aspect -- that of medium-range nuclear missiles -- which, incidentally, is not the most important one. The U.S. television network NBC has stressed that the question of strategic weapons is not even mentioned in the White House response. In addition, the response rejects two fundamental issues which are included in the Soviet initiative in the event an agreement is reached: a ban on the delivery of new missiles to respective allies and the abstention by France and Great Britain from increasing their nuclear arsenals.

In addition to all of this nonsense, the U.S. Government is trying to impose a series of conditions on the USSR that would place it at a strategic disadvantage vis-a-vis the United States. Paul Warnke, former head of the U.S. delegation to the Geneva disarmament talks, stressed the evidently unbalanced nature of the U.S. proposal, describing it as hardly serious. Meanwhile, NBC television described it as a variation on the zero option, with which the United States has tried to achieve strategic superiority in the past.

CARDINAL NOTES 'SATISFACTION' WITH CASTRO MEETING

PA242308 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Cardinal Eduardo Pironio, president of the Pontifical Council for Laymen, has expressed much satisfaction over his cordial interview with Cuban leader Fidel Castro in Havana on Saturday. Pironio also expressed to Castro greetings from the pope to all the Cuban people.

In statements for PRENSA LATINA, Pironio said that in his meeting with Castro -- during which no specific ecclesial topics were discussed -- they dealt with the most important Latin American problems, particularly the situation of misery and underdevelopment that many area peoples suffer. Pironio, who represented the Pope at the recent national Cuban ecclesiastic meeting, described as totally false reports by some foreign newspapers that this meeting was manipulated by the Cuban Government. He said: The Catholic Church held the meeting in a climate of absolute freedom and without the slightest pressure from the authorities. Finally, Pironio praised the serious, honest, and open dialogue that the government and the Catholic Church have in Cuba.

CASTRO SENDS MESSAGE TO MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE

FL241526 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has sent a message greeting the participants of the second national mathematics congress, which is being held at Havana University. More than 200 delegates are participating in the congress, from the Soviet Union, GDR, Poland, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Cuba.

During the opening ceremony, Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate Politburo member, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and education minister, and Dr Fernando Rocas, University of Havana rector, were made honorary members of the Cuban Mathematical Society in recognition of their support and assistance.

GRENADAGOVERNMENT TO PENALIZE WORKERS FOR SICK-OUT

FL252220 Bridgetown CANA in English 1954 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Feb 25, CANA -- The Grenada Government says it will penalise public workers who stayed home yesterday to protest a breakdown in pay negotiations. Those (workers) who did not turn out (to work) would not be paid for the day, the government said in a statement broadcast over state-controlled Radio Grenada.

A senior union leader told CANA today that the unions considered the government's position as hog wash saying any pay deduction would be illegal as the workers did not break the law. The unions claimed that the sick-out was 70 per cent successful and had closed schools and disrupted government departments. The government said the action of the workers was hasty and ill-advised in the circumstances because it considered negotiations with the unions as still continuing.

The Public Workers Union (PWU), the Grenada Union of Teachers, and the Technical and Allied Workers Union (TAWU) are at loggerheads with the government over demands for a 30 per cent hike in salaries for last year and a number of fringe benefits.

The 14-month old administration of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has been insisting on holding negotiations with the unions only after it had fully analysed a report on the public service prepared by a team of British consultants. The report recommends sweeping job cuts.

The government statement was high in praise for those employees who defied the unions sick-out call and turned out for work showing their commitment and dedication to the country. It added that only by dialogue can differences be resolved and that the government would not negotiate under duress. (passage indistinct] The government, therefore, calls on the unions to return to the negotiating table, it said. The statement also said that the government was still waiting on the unions to submit the names of their representatives to the body appointed to examine the recommendations of the consultants.

HAITIARMY FORCES SENT TO QUELL DISTURBANCES

PA252058 Paris AFP in Spanish 2015 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 25 Feb (AFP) -- Witnesses have told AFP that Haitian Army soldiers today fired shots in the air in front of the police headquarters in Port-au-Prince when thousands of demonstrators tried to seize two people who had sought refuge there. Demonstrators accused the two of belonging to the Bennet family, to which the wife of former President Jean-Claude Duvalier belongs.

Demonstrators hurled rocks at the building at the same time that military reinforcements from the Dessalines Barracks Intervention Battalion were arriving on the scene.

Great tension also prevailed at the international airport in Port-au-Prince where reinforcements were also needed to prevent demonstrators from seizing Luc Desyr, former Haitian Secret Police chief.

Desyr, considered one of the most evil figures in Duvalierist history, responsible for tortures and the death of thousands of people, was escorted under heavy military guard to the airport where he was scheduled to board a regular Air France flight. According to an AFP newsman who witnessed the incident, the French airliner refused to allow Desyr to board, and he had to stay in the airport under the protection of the Army while demonstrators outside the building tried to enter in order to lynch him.

NAMPHY ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM AFTER INCIDENTS

PA260310 Paris AFP in Spanish 0240 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 25 Feb (AFP) -- General Henri Namphy, president of the Haitian Government's National Council [CNG], announced tonight a program of action based on "respect for citizens' liberties and human rights," following a series of street incidents. General Namphy, who addressed the nation from the presidential palace, announced that the program would be based on the enforcement of order and "would halt fraud and corruption. The people's money must return to the people," he said.

The CNG president also announced the upcoming creation of a "consultive corps" which would be in charge of electing, through secret vote, the new constituent assembly that will draft the constitution, and would "step up the process for the exiled Haitians' return."

JUSTICE MINISTER PROTESTS PIERRE'S DEPARTURE

FL252004 Bridgetown CANA in English 1932 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Feb 25, CANA-REUTER -- Haiti formally marked the end of 28 years of dictatorship today with a ceremony that provided the first public sign of major disagreement within the new ruling council. Justice Minister Gerard Gourgue, widely considered the most popular member of the council, was conspicuously absent when Haiti's new blue-and-red flag was raised over the National Palace to mark the end of almost three decades of rule by the Duvalier family. Gourgue apparently boycotted the ceremony to protest against a decision to allow one of the most-hated members of the government of ousted President Jean-Claude Duvalier, Police Chief Albert Pierre, to leave Haiti for exile in Brazil.

In an angry statement on national television late last night, Gourgue described Pierre's departure as an offence to public opinion which is clamouring for justice. Gourgue, who was a longstanding critic of the Duvalier regime, implied that he had not been consulted in the matter of Pierre.

Western diplomats here said Gourgue's declaration and his absence from today's ceremony were the first public signs of discord in the six-member military-civilian council formed as Jean-Claude Duvalier fled the country on February 7.

Gourgue's statement was repeated on the Catholic Church-run Radio Soleil today as Council President Lieutenant General Henri Namphy hoisted the new flag over the palace to the cheers of a crowd estimated [words indistinct]. Some carried banners saying We Want Gourgue, We Want Namphy and chanted slogans critical of three other members of the council who were close aides of Duvalier.

Diplomats said the departure of the former police chief was certain to fuel growing public discontent over the presence of Duvalier aides in key government positions.

In three years as chief of police and security services, Pierre won a reputation for exceptional brutality. According to some accounts, he frequently tortured prisoners and delighted in wearing a white hospital coat during torture sessions because he enjoyed seeing the stains left by his victims blood.

Pierre was taken to the airport with a police escort on Sunday night after the nightly curfew, which has been in force for two weeks, began at 11 p.m. Obviously, they (the government) wanted to make sure the streets were empty, said one diplomat. If Pierre had been spotted in daylight, he might have been lynched. Pierre sought refuge in the Brazilian Embassy in the turbulent days after the fall of Duvalier, when angry crowds roamed the streets in search of members of the dictator's private security forces and militia, the feared Tontons Macoutes.

The departure of Pierre is shocking, Gourgue said in his declaration. I want to affirm that in my position as minister of justice, I feel it my responsibility to take action and respond to the people's demands (for punishment of human rights violators). Under the rule of Francois (Papa Doc) Duvalier and later his son Jean-Claude, Haiti was rated as one of the world's worst human rights violators by international monitoring organizations.

Gourgue had been one of the most outspoken critics of human rights abuses during the years of the dictatorship. He is one of two civilian members of the new ruling council. The other civilian, Alix Cineas, held a string of important posts under the Duvaliers and is seen here as the most disliked figure in the administration. Cineas is a Tontons Macoute, crowds chanted in front of the palace. Cineas must go.

JAMAICA

SEAGA: EXPANDED CBI TO ELIMINATE PROTECTIONISM

FL250031 Bridgetown CANA in English 1841 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 24, CANA -- Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga has told manufacturers and exporters here that with the recently announced expansion of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) the problem of protectionism should be eliminated. United States President Ronald Reagan, during his visit last week to Grenada announced the CBI expansion relating to easier access of textiles to the U.S. market. Prime Minister Seaga noted that the new proposals would benefit both Caribbean and United States interests, thereby providing gains all around.

Representatives from the manufacturing and garment export sector called on the prime minister on the weekend to congratulate and express their appreciation for the breakthrough, a statement from the official JAMPRESS News Agency said.

Seaga explained that the new regime did not alter the existing system of quota arrangements involving garments produced from non-U.S. textiles but instead added an extra dimension as garments manufactured from U.S. textiles which were cut in the U.S. would have guaranteed access to the American market. This, he said, also included other products made from U.S. textiles such as bed linen. The prime minister called on exporters to take advantage of the opportunity by increasing exports to the United States. Jamaica, he said, must now stand ready to attract our share of the many new production entities even in greater numbers than the past, although the garment sector has been one of the fastest-growing sectors in export-manufacturing.

On President Reagan's announcement that Puerto Rico would infuse U.S. 100 million a year in new investments in the Caribbean, Seaga disclosed that the Jamaica National Investment Promotions Limited (JNIP) would be establishing an office in Puerto Rico to work with firms there interested in developing twin plants with Jamaica.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRSDEVELOPMENT EXPERTS MEET, SCORE DRUG TRAFFIC

PY242119 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1449 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Trinidad, 23 Feb (EFE) -- The first international meeting of development organizations of the Amazon region has concluded with a request to all narcotics-producing countries to implement more effective control over the trafficking of cocaine and other drugs. Bolivian, Brazilian, Colombian, Ecuadoran, Peruvian, Surinamese, and Venezuelan experts and representatives of American international organizations approved a list of conclusions and recommendations for experiments and development projects in the Amazon region. The international meeting, which was held in Trinidad, capital of Beni Department this week, ended on 22 February.

The experts recommended strengthening the institutions and increasing support for the development organizations of the region in order to fulfill the objectives of the Amazon cooperation treaty. According to the La Paz newspaper PRESENCIA, the final report stressed that the "huge market for narcotics promotes large-scale clandestine farming of coca leaves, which in turn hampers the social and economic development of the Amazon countries and in some cases reduces the effectiveness of regional development organizations."

The hundred-plus experts agreed on a set of priorities and actions to be taken and recommended greater coordination among development bodies of the member countries in order to conduct joint studies and activities in the fields outlined in the Amazon cooperation treaty.

The Surinamese delegates asked that the next meeting of the Amazon economic cooperation treaty be held in Paramaribo.

SURINANEBOUTERSE ENDS 6-YEAR STATE OF EMERGENCY

PA251513 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1358 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] The Hague, 25 Feb (EFE) -- The state of emergency in force in Suriname since 1980 was lifted last night, on the sixth anniversary of the coup d'etat, Desi Bouterse, leader of Suriname, announced to Radio Netherlands today. Nevertheless, the military leader, who led the 1980 coup d'etat that overthrew a civilian government, added that the suspension of the constitution and the parliament remains in effect. In his statement, Bouterse also announced the elimination of all ranks in the Army, with the exception of those of "commander of the revolution" and "commander of the Army."

In recent years Western countries have pressured Bouterse to carry out a number of political reforms, and in 1982 the United States and the Netherlands cut off all aid to Suriname because of the execution of 15 opponents in that country. In November Bouterse established a timetable for the reestablishment of a democratic government, but the Netherlands termed it "excessively vague," so it refused to provide cooperation. Suriname, which has a population of 400,000 declared its independence from the Netherlands in 1954.